



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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Instruction Memorandum No. WYD-03-2013-006
Expires: 7/10/2014

To: Atlantic Rim Review Team and Working Groups

From: Dennis J. Carpenter, Field Manager 

Subject: Impact Thresholds on Mule Deer Migration Corridors and Crucial Winter Range in the Atlantic Rim Project Area

The Atlantic Rim Big Game Working Group has identified thresholds for Mule Deer Crucial Winter Ranges and mapped migration corridors in the Atlantic Rim Project Area (ARPA). If these thresholds are met or exceeded, they would trigger a mitigation and/or adaptive management process that would initiate consideration of measures that would contribute to the achievement of the Performance Goal identified for Mule Deer Crucial Winter Ranges and Migration Corridors.

The thresholds are detailed below:

1. The Big Game Working Group recommends an impact threshold level of one well pad location or up to 20 acres of disturbance per square mile on any area of identified Mule Deer Crucial Winter Range within the ARPA. Because the existing level of authorized development is up to 8 well pads and, therefore, approximately 52 acres of disturbance per square mile, the Working Group believes it is essential to immediately consider the need for mitigation and/or adaptive management measures designed to help achieve the crucial winter range Performance Goal.
2. The Big Game Working Group recommends two distinct thresholds for Mule Deer Migration Corridors in the ARPA:
 - a. An impact threshold level of 3 well pad locations or 20 acres of surface-disturbance per square mile within mapped areas of migration corridors that are categorized as zones of moderate and low levels of use. As with 1) above, existing decisions which authorize up to 8 well pads and, therefore, approximately 52 acres of disturbance per square mile mandate the immediate

need to consider mitigation and/or adaptive management measures designed to help achieve the migration corridor Performance Goal.

- b. An impact threshold of one wellpad location of up to 20 acres of surface disturbance per square mile within mapped areas of migration routes that are categorized as high-use stopover sites. As with 1) above, existing decisions which authorize up to 8 well pads and, therefore, approximately 52 acres of disturbance per square mile mandate the immediate need to consider mitigation and/or adaptive management measures designed to help achieve the migration corridor Performance Goal.

The conclusion of the Atlantic Rim Big Game Working Group is that the recommended impact thresholds have already been met or exceeded on substantial areas of mapped mule deer crucial winter ranges and migration corridors within the ARPA. Therefore, the need to develop appropriate mitigation and/or adaptive management measures is indicated. For additional information pertaining to the development of these thresholds, please see the Mule Deer Impact Thresholds paper at the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Rawlins Field Office, or online at:

http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/field_offices/Rawlins/AtlanticRim.html.

The development of these thresholds followed the protocol outlined in Instruction Memorandum (IM) No. WYD-030-2012-003, Recommendations For and Changes to Monitoring Procedures for the Atlantic Rim Natural Gas Development Project of March 28, 2012. The Review Team and the BLM-Authorized Officer (Dennis J. Carpenter) recommend the adoption of the thresholds identified above.

If there are comments, concerns, or issues that arise from this IM, please contact Jennifer Fleuret, Atlantic Rim Project Manager, at (307) 328-4314, or e-mail jfleuret@blm.gov.